

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LONDON 05173 291859Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
USIA-06 /058 W
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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2073
INFO USMISSION BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N//A
TAGS: PFOG, PFOR, WB, UK, UR, US, FR
SUBJECT: PARLIAMENTARY DEMARCHE ON RUDOLF HESS

REF: LONDON 4476

1. A DEPUTATION FROM THE NEWLY-FORMED ALL PARTY
"FREEDOM FOR RUDOLF HESS" CAMPAIGN CALLED ON POLITICAL
COUNSELOR MARCH 28 TO APPEAL FOR A FRESH AND "TOUGH"
TRIPARTITE APPROACH TO THE SOVIETS TO SECURE THE RELEASE
OF RUDOLF HESS. THE GROUP, WHICH INCLUDED MPS FROM
THE CONSERVATIVE, LABOR, LIBERAL, AND SCOTTISH NATIONAL
PARTIES, STRESSED THAT IF SUCH AN EFFORT MET WITH USUAL
SOVIET REBUFF, IT WOULD NOT BE "GOOD ENOUGH" FOR ALLIES
TO SAY THEY HAD DONE ALL THEY COULD. GROUP HAS ALREADY
APPROACHED FRENCH AND SOVIET EMBASSIES HERE AND FCO AND
IS DETERMINED TO STEP UP AGITATION UNTIL HESS IS
RELEASED OR AT A MINIMUM THE CONDITIONS OF HIS INCAR-
CERATION ARE SUBSTANTIALLY AMELIORATED.

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PAGE 02 LONDON 05173 291859Z

2. CYRIL TOWNSEND, CONSERVATIVE MP, URGED THE ALLIES
SIMPLY TO REMOVE HESS FROM SPANDAU AND PUT HIM IN A
MILITARY HOSPITAL. ALTERNATIVELY, JEREMY THORPE, FORMER
LEADER OF THE LIBERAL PARTY, SUGGESTED THAT HESS BE
KEPT UNDER HOUSE ARREST. KENNETH WEETCH, LABOR MP,
URGED THE ALLIES TO BRING GREATER PUBLIC PRESSURE ON
THE SOVIETS, IN THE UNITED NATIONS AND ELSEWHERE, TO

"EMBARRASS" THEM INTO DOING SOMETHING ABOUT HESS. ALL MPS STRESSED INHUMANITY OF CONTINUED IMPRISONMENT OF SICK, OLD MAN, AND ALLUDED TO PRESIDENT CARTER'S STRONG INTEREST IN HUMAN RIGHTS. GEORGE THOMPSON, SCOTTISH NATIONAL MP, INQUIRED WHETHER PRESIDENT CARTER HAD REPLIED TO LETTER SENT BY HESS'S SON.

3. IN ABSENCE OF GUIDELINES REQUESTED REFTEL, POLITICAL COUNSELOR LISTENED SYMPATHETICALLY TO GROUP'S PRESENTATIONS, AGREED TO BRING THEM TO WASHINGTON'S ATTENTION, AND PROMISED TO EXPLORE PROSPECTS FOR AMERICAN OR ALLIED ACTION REGARDING HESS.

4. COMMENT: TO GET MPS FROM FOUR LEADING PARTIES IN HOUSE OF COMMONS TO AGREE UPON ANYTHING THESE DAYS IS IN ITSELF SIGNIFICANT. ALL MEMBERS OF GROUP RECOGNIZED THAT ALLIES HAD MADE EFFORTS IN PAST TO GET HESS RELEASED AND THAT SOVIETS ALONE WERE TO BLAME FOR HIS CONTINUED IMPRISONMENT. NONETHELESS, THEY FIND IT DIFFICULT TO UNDERSTAND WHY ALLIES MUST CONTINUE TO ABIDE BY SOVIET VETO IN THIS MATTER.

5. ALTHOUGH WE ARE SENSITIVE TO RAMIFICATIONS FOR ENTIRE NETWORK OF QUADRIpartite RELATIONSHIPS IN BERLIN, WE SEE MERIT IN RE-EXAMINING OLD ASSUMPTIONS AND GIVING SERIOUS CONSIDERATION TO TRIpartite ACTIONS SUCH AS THOSE ADVOCATED BY MPS.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE PROVIDE EMBASSY WITH AS MUCH INFORMATION AS POSSIBLE ON THIS ISSUE TO SHARE WITH MPS, INCLUDING DETAILS OF ANY RECENT ALLIED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 LONDON 05173 291859Z

APPROACHES TO SOVIETS, RATIONALES FOR ALLIED ACTIONS OR INACTION, AND PROSPECTS FOR SATISFYING MPS' DEMANDS IN NEAR FUTURE. ALSO ANSWER TO SPECIFIC QUESTION WHETHER PRESIDENT CARTER HAS REPLIED TO LETTER FROM HESS'S SON.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 29-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
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Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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